

Myths and Truths About ABARS: Part II

By Colleen Gordon

Because Mainstar provides products that support DFSMSHsm and ABARS, we hear many myths about ABARS from all over the world. This series of Informational Documents is intended to dispel these myths and communicate some truths that may be of interest to potential users of the DFSMSHsm data mover, ABARS.

Myth #2: Using ABARS increases the cost of DFSMSHsm.

ABARS is a function of the DFSMSHsm product, designed specifically to address the disaster recovery needs of applications. ABARS has functionality not supported by any other data mover. For example, ABARS can copy tape and migrated data without recall. This functionality is not supported in DFSMSdss or any other data mover available today. ABARS is included, at no additional charge, in the DFSMSHsm product license, and does not raise the cost of the annual product maintenance.

Myth #3: ABARS is slower than DFDSS.

ABARS uses DFSMSdss as its data mover 'under the covers'. The execution time to back up data in an ABARS backup is the same as using DFSMSdss logical backup. However, because ABARS supports data on tape and data in migration, these additional storage media types can increase the execution time of the backup. When a tape data set is in the INCLUDE list, the tape is mounted and data is copied from the tape to the aggregate output file. When a migrated data set is on ML2 tape, the tape is mounted and the data is copied in its migrated format to the aggregate output file. Placing tape data in the INCLUDE list of an ABARS backup can increase the execution time of the backup simply because you are including more data and that data resides on tape.

ABARS provides flexibility for tape and migrated data sets using the PROCESSIONLY keyword. If you are using an alternative method for copying tape and migrated data, the PROCESSIONLY keyword provides options to prevent tape, ML1 and/or ML2 data from being included in the aggregate backup.

Find out more.

Now that you know the truth about how cost-effective and fast ABARS is, find out more about what it can offer you! Attend Mainstar's ABARS Made Simple webcast for information on how to manage today's ABARS environments. On our web site, www.mainstar.com, you can download numerous White Papers and Informational Documents on ABARS. If you have any questions, contact us at experts@mainstar.com or contact Mainstar Technical Support.

Discover the truth about ABARS – stay tuned for the next part of our series!

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Colleen has an extensive background in Business Continuation and Storage Management and has worked with customers all over the world. Colleen is the co-author of the IBM Redbook, ABARS and Mainstar Solutions, and has written articles for Disaster Recovery Journal, Enterprise Systems Journal, and other industry magazines.

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